

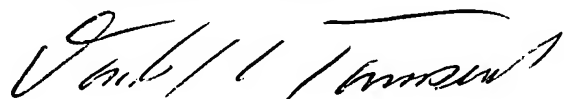
REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the very thorough and professional Office Action. Pursuant to that Office Action, Claims 24-26 are hereby cancelled, leaving Claims 27-32 remaining in the application. The present Claims 1-32 are in the application.

In view of the cancellation of the rejected claims 24-26, this leaves only allowed claims 27-32 remaining in the application. It is therefore believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed at the present time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Townsend", is written over a horizontal line.

Donald E. Townsend
Reg. No. 22,069

Customer No. 27955

TOWNSEND & BANTA
Suite 900, South Building
601 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 220-3124

DOCKET NO. SHI-018-USA-PCT

Date: September 10, 2004